United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit



APPELLEE'S BRIEF

75-7682

In The

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT



ROBERT CALHOUN, JR.,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

-against-

H. SPENCER KUPPERMAN, ESQ., CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE, its agents and others, THACHER, PROFFITT, PRIZER, CRAWLEY & WOOD, its agents and others, SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM, its agents, MICHAEL H. DIAMOND, HENRY P. BAER, J. PHILLIP ADAMS, PEGGY L, KERR, and others, FREEMAN, MEADE, WASSERMAN & SHARFMAN, its agents and others.

Defendants-Appellees.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
For the Southern District of New York

BRIEF FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLEE CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE

> CRAVA! H, SWAINE & MOORE, Defendant-Appellee Pro Se, One Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ī	Page
Preliminary Statement	1
Counterstatement of Question Presented	2
Statement of the Case	2
Argument	
POINT I. THE DISTRICT COURT PROPERLY DISMISSED THE COMPLAINT ON THE GROUND THAT PLAINTIFF LACKS STANDING TO SUE FOR THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF HIS WIFE'S RIGHTS	4
POINT II. THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT DEFENDANT-APPELLEE CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE WAS NOT A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF WHICH PLAINTIFF COMPLAINS.	5
Conclusion	6
Appendix	
Statutes	Al
Consent to Substitution of Attorneys and Order in Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside Research Institute, 71 Civil 2734 (S.D.N.Y.)	A2
Opinion and order appealed from	A4

TALLE OF AUTHORITIES

												I	Page
	Case	S											
Barrows v. Jackson, 346 U.S. 249 (1953)						٠, .							5
Brown v. Duggan, 329 F. Supp. 207 (W.D.	Pa.	197	1)										4
Evain v. Conlisk, 364 F. Supp. 1188 (N.D. opinion, 498 F.2d 1403	Ill (7th	. l Ci	97 r.	3)	, 97	aff 3).	'd	wj	ith.	101	1+_		5
United States ex rel. Sav 403 F. Supp. 172 (E.D.	rage Pa.	v. 197	Ar 5)	no •	<u>ld</u>								4
Warth v. Seldin, 422 U.S. 490 (1975)													5
S	tatu	tes											
18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242													4
42 U.S.C. § 1983													3. 4

In the

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

Docket No. 75-7682

ROBERT CALHOUN, JR.,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

-against-

H. SPENCER KUPPERMAN, ESQ., CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE, its agents and others, THACHER, PROFFITT, PRIZER, CRAWLEY & WOOD, its agents and others, SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM, its agents, MICHAEL H. DIAMOND, HENRY P. BAER, J. PHILLIP ADAMS, PEGGY L. KERR, and others, FREEMAN, MEADE, WASSERMAN & SHARFMAN, its agents and others.

Defendants-Appellees.

On Appeal from the United States District Court

For the Southern District of New York

BRIEF FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLEE CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiff appeals from the order of the District Court (Hon. Kevin T. Duffy) dismissing his complaint and action on the

ground that "an individual cannot sue for the deprivation of another's civil rights." (A copy of the opinion and order is appended hereto at A4.) The order below should be affirmed on the ground stated as to all defendants and, on the supplementary ground as to defendant-appellee Cravath, Swaine & Moore, that during the relevant period it was not in any way involved in proceedings in the related action upon which plaintiff bases his claim.

COUNTERSTATEMENT OF QUESTION PRESENTED

Does plaintiff have standing to sue under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for damages he alleges resulted from an alleged violation in a federal court proceeding of another person's constitutional or statutory rights?

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 2, 1971, Alice M. Calhoun filed a complaint in the District Court in the Southern District of New York against Riverside Research Institute ("Riverside") and Columbia University alleging that she had been denied a promotion by her employer, Riverside, because of her race.*

The action was discontinued as to Columbia University on

^{*} Copies of the Complaint, the Stipulation of Discontinuance and the District Court's docket in Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside Research Institute (71 Civil 2734) are appended to the Brief for the Plaintiff-Appellant.

Consent by order filed March 13, 1972. Cravath, Swaine & Moore, a defendant in this action, appeared as attorneys for Riverside until April 7, 1972, when another firm was substituted for it with Riverside's consent and the Court's approval. Cravath, Swaine & Moore did not participate in the proceedings in Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside in any way after the substitution.*

Alice Calhoun and Riverside settled their action for \$5,900 at a conference perfore Judge Knapp on June 26, 1974, and a stipulation and order of discontinuance was filed July 2, 1974. As shown by the transcript of that hearing, it appears that Mrs. Calhoun was satisfied with the settlement and understood that it was final. (A portion of the transcript is included in the opinion and order appealed from and the entirety of it, including appearances, is appended as Exhibit A to the Memorandum of Law on Behalf of Defendant Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Record Document 12.)

Plaintiff herein, Alice M. Calhoun's husband, charged that all the attorneys who had occasion to appear in Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside at any time, even during the preliminary stages of that action, "caused his wife to lose the damages that were warranted in her action", resulting in consequent injury to him. He specifically invoked 42 U.S.C.

^{*} A conformed copy of the consent and order is appended hereto at A2. A copy of it was given to Judge Duffy while the motions to dismiss were pending at the conference on September 17, 1975.

§ 1983 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242 as the basis for the District Court's jurisdiction. These statutes are set forth in the appendix hereto at Al.

Argument

I.

THE DISTRICT COURT PROPERLY DISMISSED THE COM-PLAINT ON THE GROUND THAT PLAINTIFF LACKS STANDING TO SUE FOR THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF HIS WIFE'S RIGHTS.

The statutes plaintiff invoked, 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242, did not confer subject matter jurisdiction over this action on the District Court.

It is settled that 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242 are penal statutes which do not provide a basis for civil jurisdiction. E.g., United States ex rel. Savage v. Arnold, 403 F. Supp. 172, 173 (E.D. Pa. 1975); Brown v. Duggan, 329 F. Supp. 207, 209 (W.D. Pa. 1971).

On its face, Section 1983 of Title 42 permits claims only by persons who, under color of state action, are deprived of federally conferred rights. If anyone was deprived of a federally conferred right in Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside, a federal action, it was Alice M. Calhoun, not plaintiff, and any such deprivation was surely not under color of any state statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or

usage.

Moreover, in part because of the "case or controversy" requirement of Article III of the U.S. Constitution, a party may not rely on a violation of the rights of another person to support a claim or a defense. McGowan v. Maryland, 366 U.S. 420, 429 (1961); Barrows v. Jackson, 346 U.S. 249, 255-57 (1953). A person such as plaintiff suing under Section 1983 may not assert a claim based upon deprivation of another's rights. Warth v. Seldin, 422 U.S. 490, 498-502 (1975); Evain v. Conlisk, 364 F. Supp. 1188, 1190 (N.D. III. 1973), aff'd without opinion, 498 F.2d 1403 (7th Cir. 1973).

II.

THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT DEFENDANT-APPELLEE CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE WAS NOT A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF WHICH PLAINTIFF COMPLAINS.

Alice M. Calhoun v. Riverside was settled in June of 1974. Over two years earlier, another firm had been substituted for defendant-appellee Cravath, Swaine & Moore as Riverside's attorneys in that action. Cravath, Swaine & Moore did not participate in that proceeding in any way thereafter. It thus was not involved in the action during the settlement negotiation and did not participate in the settlement conference of which plaintiff complains. For

this additional reason, it should thus be excused from further participation in this action.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated herein, the opinion and order dismissing the complaint and action should be affirmed.

August 16, 1976

Respectfully submitted,

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE,
Defendant-Appellee Pro Se,
One Chase Manhattan Plaza,
New York, N. Y. 10005

APPENDIX



18 U.S.C. § 241

Conspiracy against rights of citizens

If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the tree exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Con titution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or

If two or more persons go in disguise on the high-way, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured--

They shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results, they shall be subject to imprisonment for any term of years or for life.

18 U.S.C. § 242

Deprivation of rights under color of law

Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any inhabitant of any State, Territory or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or to different punishments, pains, or penalties, on account of such inhabitant being an alien, or by reason of his color, or race, than are prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both; and if death results shall be subject to imprisonment for any term of years or for life.

42 U.S.C. § 1983

Civil action for deprivation of rights

Every person who, under color of any statute, odinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK PISONSTRICT CON FILED APR 18 1972

ALICE M. CALHOUN,

: CONSENT TO SUBSTITUTIC:: Plaintiff, : OF ATTORNAYS

-against-

Index No. 71 Civ. 2734 : H.R.T. H.R.T.

RIVERSIDE RESEARCH INSTITUTE and COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,

Defendants.

IT IS HEREBY CONSENTED AND AGREED that Messrs. Meade, Wasserman & Plowden-Wardlaw of 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017, be, and they hereby are, substituted in the place

and stead of Cravath, Swaine & Moore of 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, New York 10005, as attorneys for Riverside Research Institute in the above-entitled action.

April 7, 1972

Attorneys for Riverside Research

Institute

RIVERSIDE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

By Temmer # () here

So Ordered April 17 1972

11 11 R Tyle 10

STATE OF NEW YORK,)

OUNTY OF NEW YORK,

On the Aday of April, 1972, before me personally

came Lawrence H. O'Neill , to me known, who being by me

duly sworn did lepose and say that he resides at Adams of

kear fact, by ; that he is the President of

Riverside Research Institute, the not-for-profit corporation

described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that

he knows the seal of said Corporation; that the seal affixed

to said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so

affixed by order of the Board of Trustees of said Corporation;

and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERT CALHOUN, JR.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

OPINION AND ORDER

H. SPENCER KUPPERNAN, ESQ., et al.,

75 Civ. 3748

Defendants.

APPEARANCES

ROBERT CALHOUN, JR., Pro Se, Plaintiff

H. SPENCER KUPPERMAN, Pro se, Defendant

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE Pro Se, Defendants

THACHER, PROFITT, PRIZER, CRAWLEY & WOOD Pro Se, Defendants

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM Pro Se, Defendants and for Defendants MICHAEL H. DIAMOND, HENRY P. BAER, J. PHILLIP ADAMS, PIGGY L. KERR

FREEMAN, MEADE, WASSERMAN & SHARFMAN Pro Se, Defendants

KEVIN THOMAS DUFFY, D.J.

This is an action brought under 42 U.S.C. 9 1983, 18 U.S.C. 99 241, 242, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and

the Fourteenth Amendment. Robert Calhoun, Jr., the sole plaintiff in this action, is the husband of Alice M. Calhoun. Mrs. Calhoun had previously brought an action against Riverside Research Institute ("Riverside") and Columbia University ("Columbia") alleging discrimination based on race in the defendants' failure to promote her to the post of assistant manager of the "AMRAD Data Reduction group" at its Electronics Research Laboratories. Calhoun v. Riverside Research Institute, 71 Civ. 2734 (S.D.N.Y.). Defendants in the action before me are the attorneys and law firms who represented Mrs. Calhoun, Riverside and Columbia at various stages of that litigation.

At some point in the earlier suit, Columbia was discontinued as a defendant. The claim against Riverside resulted in a "disputed settlement agreement" of \$5,000 to cover Mrs. Calhoun's out of pocket litigation expenses.

Attorneys' fees were not included in this figure since counsel for Mrs. Calhoun had undertaken the case on a pro bono basis.

The "disputed settlement" was successfully challenged by Mrs. Calhoun at a hearing before Judge Knapp. The Judge expressed a willingness to act as a catalyst to bring the parties together on a new agreement:

MRS. CALHOUN: Your Honor Mr. Calhoun is criticizing me for magnificating a settlement --

3.

THE COURT: Mr. Calhoun is not attacking any-body. Mr. Calhoun is expressing his wishes.

My point is, Mr. Calhoun, we are all here, we are all present, and wh. don't we try to settle it right now?

MR. CALHOUN: Right.

THE COURT: So let us not worry about who did what in the past.

Following a discussion off the record, a settlement figure of \$5,900 was agreed upon. The agreement was placed on the record:

THE COURT: I take it you represent that this settlement takes into account any claims you have against Riverside Research Institute?

MRS. CALHOUN: Yes, I am under the impression that once you have settled, there is no recourse.

THE COURT: You represent to me that you have no claims of any sort against Riverside Research or anybody there?

MRS. CALHOUN: Yes.

THE COURT: That is not taken care of by this settlement?

MRS. CALHOUN: I do.

Mr. Calhoun now alleges that the defendants conspired in the earlier litigation to do harm to him and his wife by causing "his wife to lose the damages that were warranted in her action." It is the general rule that an individual cannot sue for the deprivation of another's civil rights. McGovan v. Maryland, 366 U.S. 420, 429 (1961);

Evaln v. Conlisk, 364 F.Supp. 1188 (N.D.III.), aff'd,
498 F.2d 1403 (7th Cir. 1974). Only Mrs. Calhoun is in a position to raise any wrongs done to her. The statement that Mr. Calhoun was in turn harmed does not cure this defect.

Since plaintiff lacks standing, the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The action, therefore, must be dismissed as to all defendants. Plaintiff's motions for summary judgment and other relief are thus mooted.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York

November // , 1975.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

ROBERT CALHOUN, JR.,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

-against-

H. SPENCER KUPPERMAN, EQQ., et al.,

Defendants-Respondents.

Docket No. 75-7682

AFFIDAVIT OF

SERVICE BY MAIL

STATE OF NEW YORK) SS.:

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says: Deponent is over the age of 18 years, is not a party to this action and resides at 710 Rhinelander Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10462

On the 16th day of August 19 76 deponent served the annexedBRIEF FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLEE CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE TWO

upon Xmarhxmf) the below listed attorney(s) by depositing Xm / true qook (copies) of the same securely enclosed in a postpaid, properly addressed wrapper in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

THACHER, PROFFITT & WOOD Defendant Pro Se 40 Wall Street New York, N.Y. 10005

Sworn to before me this 16th day of August 19 76

MARC GOLDEN
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 31-4615406
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires March 30, 1977.

John Murphy

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

ROBERT CALHOUN, JR.,

Plaintiff-Appellant, :

Docket No. 75-7682

-against-

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AFFIDAVIT OF

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On the 16th day of August 19 76 deponent served the annexed Brief for Defendant-Appellee Cravath, Swaine & Moore

upon (markers) the below listed attorney(s) by depositing a true recopy (copies) of the same securely enclosed in a postpaid, properly addressed wrapper in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

Robert Calhour, Jr., Fro Se Plaintiff 111-11 132nd Street Jamaica, N.Y. 11420

Freeman, Meade, Wasserman, Sharfman & Schneider Defendant Pro Se 551 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10017

Skadden, Arps Slate, Meagher & Flom Defendant Pro Se
919 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
Sworn to before me this 16th
day of August 19 76

Post m O

RALPH M. DIONNE
Notary Public State of New York
Not. 41-60 2070
Qualified in Quiens County
Cert. Filed in New York County
Commission Expires March 30, 1978

John Murphy

